

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PEPR, US, ET  
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON NAMRU RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

SUMMARY: THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED ETHIOPIAN HERALD  
BEGAN A SCURRILOUS SERIES, AUGUST 17, ALLEGING THAT  
NAMRUS ARE MEDICAL RESEARCH STATIONS WHOSE MAIN  
PURPOSE IS RESEARCH INTO THE PREPARATION OF BIOLO-  
GICAL WARFARE WEAPONS. WE REQUEST A STATEMENT  
WE CAN USE WITH ETHIOPIAN OFFICIALS DESCRIBING THE  
HISTORY, AIMS, ACHIEVEMENTS AND METHODS OF OPERA-  
TION OF NAMRU-5 WHICH WAS LOCATED IN ADDIS ABABA  
UNTIL EXPELLED IN 1977. END SUMMARY.

1. THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED ETHIOPIAN HERALD ON AUGUST  
17 BEGAN TO RUN A SERIES OF COMMENTARY ARTICLES EN-  
TITLED "NAMRU - RESEARCH CENTRE OF OFFENSIVE BIOLO-  
GICAL WEAPONS." THE FIRST ARTICLE, IN A SERIES  
READERS ARE INFORMED WILL BE CONTINUED, DOES NOT  
SINGLE OUT NAMRU-5, WHICH WAS LOCATED IN ADDIS  
ABABA UNTIL ITS EXPULSION BY THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT IN  
1977. WE CONSIDER IT LIKELY THAT SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS WILL  
APPEAR IN SUBSEQUENT ARTICLES, AND WILL REPORT THESE IF  
SIGNIFICANT.

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2. THE GENERAL TONE OF THE FIRST ARTICLE (SIGNED BY  
"MUSTAFA ABUBEKER") MAY BE DEDUCED FROM THE TITLE AND THE  
FOLLOWING SELECTED QUOTES. "AS THE PROTESTS IN THE USA GREW  
AGAINST THE MANUFACTURE AND USE OF BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS, MORE  
AND MORE STRESS WAS MADE ON RESEARCH PROGRAMMES ON FOREIGN  
SOIL." "EXPERIEMENTS CARRIED OUT ABROAD BY US MEDICO-MILITARY  
PERSONNEL MAY IN EFFECT RESULT IN LINGERING CONTAMINATION

WITH MORBIFIC MICROBES OF PARTS OF TERRITORY OF OTHER COUNTRIES."

"THE DEPLOYMENT OF BIOLOGICAL WARFARE CENTRES IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE WORLD ENABLES THE US ARMED FORCES TO SEEK AND IDENTIFY THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF HITTING SPECIFIC POPULATION GROUPS . . ." "WHEN WORKING ABROAD US MICROBIOLOGISTS CARRY OUT CHECKS AND PRESCRIBE TREATMENT DURING SPONTANEOUS EPIDEMIC OUTBREAKS AND THUS ARE IDEALLY PLACED TO IDENTIFY IN THE PROCESS BACTERIA AND VIRUSES PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS FOR THE LOCAL POPULATION . . ." "THUS . . . NAMRU-2 IN TAIPEI . . . CONTRIBUTES TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPECIFIC KINDS OF BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS ESPECIALLY DANGEROUS FOR THE MAINLAND CHINESE." "THE RESULTS OF BIOLOGICAL WARFARE RESEARCH CARRIED OUT IN EGYPT (BY NAMRU-3) CAN BE USED . . . AGAINST EGYPT ITSELF AND OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES BY THAT ENEMY OF THE ARABS - ISRAEL. THE EXPERIMENTS OF NAMRU-3 ARE PART AND PARCEL OF A GENERAL US ARMY EFFORT TO DEVELOP THE MOST SOPHISTICATED TYPES OF THOSE WEAPONS." "IT CANNOT BE RULED OUT THAT THE 'PRESCRIPTION' FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF NEW KINDS OF BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS IN WHICH THE NAMRU-3 RESEARCH CENTRE HAS BEEN INVOLVED, MAY BE REVEALED TO THE ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE SERVICE, SHIN-BET, BY SOME OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH VIRUSOLOGISTS."

3. THE STATED AUTHOR OF THIS ARTICLE, MUSTAFA ABUBEKER, IS UNKNOWN TO US; THE NAME IS MOST LIKELY A PSEUDONYM. WE FURTHER SUSPECT THAT THE ENTIRE ARTICLE IS PLANTED DISIN-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FORMATION ON THE BASIS OF ITS LINKAGE OF A NUMBER OF ANTI-US THEMES, SOME OF A FAIRLY TECHNICAL NATURE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WHILE WE DO NOT PROPOSE TO TRY TO COUNTER THIS ARTICLE DIRECTLY, CONSISTENT WITH OUR PRACTICE OF IGNORING ARTICLES AND COMMENTS BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL OR DIRG OFFICIALS (AND OUR PRESENT INABILITY TO COUNTER SUCH COMMENTARY EFFECTIVELY), WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ASAP BY CABLE A CONCISE STATEMENT ON THE HISTORY, AIMS, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND METHODS OF OPERATION OF NAMRU-5 IN ETHIOPIA AND LATER ABOUT NAMRU WORLDWIDE. WE COULD USE SUCH A STATEMENT WITH GOOD EFFECT WITH THOSE ETHIOPIAN OFFICIALS WHO ARE CONCERNED WITH BETTERING US-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS. WE WOULD HOPE TO BE ABLE EVENTUALLY TO GET THEM TO FOCUS ON THE PROBLEMS SUCH SCURRILOUS DIATRIBES POSE TO BETTER RELATIONS, AND, IF OUR SURMIZE IS CORRECT THAT THIS ARTICLE WAS A COMMUNIST DISINFORMATION PLANT, TO GET THEM TO FOCUS HOW THE ETHIOPIAN PRESS IS BEING USED BY NON-ETHIOPIANS FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES.  
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